

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0028] as follows:

[0028] Latch 38 releasably retains clamp 36 in the ~~latch~~ latch position. Latch 38 extends from one leg of clamp 36 and includes a shoulder 38a that engages a shoulder 38b formed on the other leg of clamp 36. When the two legs of clamp 36 are squeezed together so that shoulder 38a engages shoulder 38b, clamp 36 is held in the latch position. When shoulders 38a and 38b are disengaged, the resiliency of clamp 36 allows the legs of clamp 36 to move apart so that clamp 36 returns to the open position. An upstanding push tab 138 extends upwardly from latch 38. See Figs. 8 – 11. Push tab 138 can be pushed downwardly in order to facilitate the disengagement of shoulders 38a and 38b. As shown in FIGS. 8 – 11, push tab 138 is oriented such that it moves in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of epidural needle 10 to disengage shoulders 38a and 38b. Since there is no longitudinal component to this motion, it does not affect the relative longitudinal relationship between epidural needle 10 and spinal needle 14. A support leg 139 can be located below latch 38 to support latch 38 and prevent push tab 138 from being used to break latch 38 if excessive force is applied downwardly to push tab 138 when clamp 36 is opened. See Fig. 11.